

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 01514 210842Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W
-----104718 210851Z /16

R 210701Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2537

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 1514

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, MY

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: KUALA LUMPUR MASS RAPID TRANSIT (MRT)
SYSTEM

REF: STATE 35044

1. EMBASSY CONTACTED GOH HOCK GUAN REGARDING THIS PROJECT. MR. GOH IS ONE OF MALAYSIA'S LEADING ARCHITECTS AND TOWN PLANNERS. GOH HAS COMPLETED WHAT IS PROBABLY THE ONLY PRIVATELY DONE STUDY ON THE SUBJECT. BEFORE THE STUDY COMMENCED, GOH TRAVELLED ALL OVER THE WORLD TO STUDY OTHER MRT SYSTEMS IN OPERATION. HE VISITED MANY SYSTEMS IN THE U.S., JAPAN, GERMANY, KOREA AND BRITAIN, LOOKING AT THEIR SUCCESSES AND FAILURES. ON HIS RETURN GOH POOLED TOGETHER A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO MAKE A DETAILED STUDY AND THEIR REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE. ACCORDING TO GOH, THE LATE PRIME MINISTER TUN ABDUL RAZAK WAS KEENLY INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT. HE AND HIS SENIOR COLLEAGUES WERE BRIEFED BY GOH AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

2. GOH PROPOSED THE OVERHEAD MRT SYSTEM FOR KUALA LUMPUR BY USING EXISTING RIVERINE ROUTES (KLANG AND GOMBAK RIVERS). ACCORDING TO HIM, AN ELEVATED SYSTEM WOULD AVOID THE COST OF TUNNELLING AND LAND
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PAGE 02 KUALA 01514 210842Z

ACQUISITION AND WORK COULD BE CARRIED OUT WITH LITTLE INTERFERENCE TO NORMAL DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES OF THE CITY.

3. EMBASSY ALSO CONTACTED KUALA LUMPUR CITY HALL AND ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT (EPU) IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE SUBJECT.

CITY HALL STATED THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN
OFFICIALLY INFORMED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT
THE PROJECT WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY GOM.
ACCORDING TO EPU, THE PROJECT IS VERY MUCH IN
THE TENTATIVE STAGES.

4. ACCORDING TO GOH, HE PROJECT IS BEING HANDLED
BY THE PRIME MINISTER DEPARTMENT WITH MINISTER OF
FINANCE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROJECT. GOH
STATED THAT ANY PARTY INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING
IN THE PROJECT COULD CONTACT HIM AT GOH HOCK GUAN
AND ASSOCIATES, GROUND FLOOR, UMBC BUILDING, JALAN
SULAIMAN, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA.
MILLER

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NNN

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